

In the Claims

1-51 (canceled).

52 (previously presented). A chromatin insulator consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1.

53 (currently amended). A vector comprising one or more ~~insulator according to claim 52~~ insulators consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1.

54 (previously presented). The vector according to claim 53, further comprising a DNA element selected from

- a) an enhancer or a functional expression enhancing fragment thereof;
- b) a promoter domain or a functional expression promoting fragment thereof; or
- c) a DNA sequence coding for one or more polypeptides of interest.

55 (currently amended). The vector according to ~~claim 52~~ claim 53, further comprising one or more DNA sequences coding for regulatory elements selected from 5'UTRs, introns, 3'UTRs, mRNA 3' end processing sequences, polyadenylation sites, and internal ribosome entry sequences (IRES).

56 (currently amended). The vector according to ~~claim 53~~ claim 54, wherein the DNA sequence is coding for more than one polypeptide of interest through a polycistronic mRNA.

57 (previously presented). The vector according to claim 54, further comprising one or more DNA elements selected from boundary elements, locus control regions (LCRs), matrix attachment regions (MARs), and elements for recombination and cassette exchange.

58 (previously presented). The vector according to claim 54, wherein the promoter is selected from cellular or viral/phage promoters such as mCMV-IE1, mCMV-IE2, hCMV, SV40, RSV, T7, T3, or a functional expression promoting fragment thereof.

59 (previously presented). The vector according to claim 54, wherein the polypeptide of interest is selected from FSH, LH, CG, TSH, growth hormone, interferon, TNF binding protein I, TNF binding protein II, IL-18BP, IL-6, IFNAR1, LIF or fusion proteins thereof.

60 (previously presented). The vector according to claim 54, wherein the polypeptide of interest is selected from EPO, G-CSF, GM-CSF, a chain of a humanized antibody, a cytokine, a coagulation factor, etanercept, tPA, an integrin or fusion proteins thereof.

61 (previously presented). The vector according to claim 54, wherein the polypeptide of interest is selected from adenosine deaminase (ADA), aminoglycoside phosphotransferase (neo), dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR), hygromycin-B-phosphotransferase (HPH), thymidine kinase (tk), xanthine-guanine phosphoribosyltransferase (gpt), multiple drug resistance gene (MDR), ornithine decarboxylase (ODC) and N-(phosphonacetyl)-L-aspartate resistance (CAD), puromycin acetyltransferase (PAC), galactokinase, human folate receptor, or reduced folate carriers.

62 (previously presented). The vector according to claim 54, wherein the polypeptide of interest is selected from luciferase, green fluorescent protein, alkaline phosphatase or horseradish peroxidase or combinations thereof.

63 (currently amended). The vector according to ~~claim 55~~claim 54, wherein one insulator consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 is positioned upstream and one insulator consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 is positioned downstream of the DNA sequence coding for a polypeptide of interest.

64 (currently amended). The vector according to claim 55, wherein at least two insulators consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 are positioned upstream ~~and downstream~~ of a DNA sequence

coding for a polypeptide of interest and at least two insulators consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 are positioned downstream of said DNA sequence, respectively.

65 (previously presented). The vector according to claim 56, wherein at least two coding sequences are positioned between the insulators.

66 (previously presented). The vector according to claim 65, wherein the at least two coding sequences code for subunits of a multimeric protein.

67 (currently amended). The vector according to claim 66, wherein said subunits are an alpha chain and a ~~the first subunit is the alpha chain and the second subunit is the~~ beta chain of a hormone selected from the group consisting of human FSH, human LH, human TSH and human CG.

68 (currently amended). The vector according to claim 66, wherein said subunits are a heavy chain and a ~~the first subunit is the heavy chain and the second subunit is the~~ light chain of an immunoglobulin.

69 (previously presented). A host cell comprising an insulator according to claim 52.

70 (previously presented). A host cell transfected with a vector according to claim 53.

71 (previously presented). The host cell according to claim 70, wherein the host cell and the insulator are derived from different species.

72 (previously presented). The host cell according to claim 70, wherein the host cell is a CHO cell.

73 (currently amended). A process for the production of a polypeptide of interest comprising the step of transfecting a host cell with at least one vector ~~according to claim 54 and~~

culturing said cells under conditions that allow for the production of said polypeptide, wherein said vector comprises a promoter domain or a functional expression promoting fragment thereof operably linked to a DNA sequence coding for one or more polypeptides of interest and one or more insulators consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 located both upstream and downstream of said promoter domain or a functional expression promoting fragment thereof operably linked to a DNA sequence coding for one or more polypeptides of interest.

74 (previously presented). The process according to claim 73, further comprising the step of isolating the polypeptide of interest from the host cells.

75 (canceled).